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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "NAVY FULLY INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT CLEANUP OF ITS
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MILLINGTON STAR

Navy "fully intends" to implement cleanup of its abandoned Citgo station

By Bill Short

STAR STAFF WRITER

Because it is responsible for cleanup operations on the base, the Navy "fully intends" to implement its efforts on the site of the abandoned Citgo service station it owns on Navy Road.

That was the word last week from Tonya Barker, director of the Environmental Division of Naval Support Activity Mid-South. For the Citgo site, Barker said the Navy has divided the work into three different programs.

The first project is to remove the three underground storage tanks at the site.

The Navy did not decide to discontinue operations at that site until late last May, Barker said. So, the tanks were officially taken out of service in July, when the fuel was pumped out of them.

Last August, she said, the Navy notified the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that the tanks were being removed from service. In September, the Navy sent money to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which it has hired to remove the tanks. Because of its workload, Barker said, the Corps of Engineers could not begin until after the first of this year.

She noted that on Feb. 22 the Navy filed an application with the state of Tennessee for permanent closure of the underground storage tanks. Then, on March 5, it received written approval for the closure from TDEC. So, the Navy plans to begin cleanup work at the site next Monday, Barker said, with an expected completion date of July 12.

"By then, we hope to have the three tanks removed from that site," she said. "So, that really takes care of

the first part."

Barker said the second program for the site is the ongoing solid-waste management unit work, which is coordinated with TDEC and the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 in Atlanta. This program deals with two different solid-waste management units. One is an underground waste tank, she said, and the other is an underground "used oil" tank, which was a hazardous-waste accumulation area. The Navy is projected to receive the money for the cleanup of these two sites in fiscal year 2002.

"This is only projected," Barker noted. "So, we don't know for certain that we'll get the funding. It depends on Congress."

The Navy cannot do the cleanup of those two areas until the buildings

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on the site are demolished, and the demolition is also projected for fiscal year 2002.

The Navy will spend approximately \$80,000 for removal of the underground storage tanks, Barker said, and another \$80,000 for cleanup of the solid-waste management units.

The third program is the remedial action contractor work. It deals with contamination from spills that occurred in 1986-87, when the Navy lost about 5,400 gallons of leaded and unleaded gasoline at the site. Barker said the first spill was due to a leak from a piping joint under a pump island. Then another line ruptured in 1987.

"We don't know exactly what caused the rupture," she said. "We just know that we were losing pressure in the line. And so, we dug up the line, did the repair and estimated the loss."

While the Naval Air Technical Training Center was in full operation here, Barker said, the Citgo service station was used by current and retired military personnel. Because the remedial action contractor work could not begin while the station was in operation, the Navy is now ready to start the cleanup.

The contracts for Phases I and II were awarded last month, Barker said, and the work is expected to be completed in May. It consists of a site visit, a work plan, health and safety plan, quality assurance plan and a cost estimate from the remedial action contractor. A company called CH2M Hill has a contract with Southern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Barker said Phase III involves the actual remedial work. It consists of ground water sampling, soil removal,

installation of recovery wells, and possibly a pump-and-treat for the ground water. Then, quarterly sampling will be done for a year.

Phase III is expected to be completed by January 2003, she said. Then, the Navy will submit a report to TDEC, which has the ultimate authority to give "site-specific closure" or to require additional work on the site.

So, if everything goes as planned, the Navy expects the old Citgo site to be completely hazardous-material free by January 2003. After the cleanup is complete, Barker said, the Navy will determine whether the site meets its mission requirements, and if there is a reason for the base to retain the property. If it is determined that the property is excess, the General Services Administration in Atlanta will inform the Navy of the steps required to sell or otherwise dispose of Department of Defense property.

Barker noted that a number of individuals are involved in the Navy's cleanup operations.

"On this particular site, we have the state and the EPA," she said. "So, we have to make sure that everyone's in agreement as to proper procedures that are taken for cleanup efforts."

Barker also noted that the Restoration Advisory Board is the Navy's "main forum" for informing the public about the cleanup efforts that have occurred on the base.

Co-chaired by Millington Mayor George R. Harvell Jr. and Capt. Diane Lofink, commanding officer of NSA Mid-South, the board meets quarterly at Baker Community Center. Barker said its next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 20, and she encouraged Millington residents to attend.